

Somali

<https://pwsmith.github.io/multivaluation/dbcoord/>

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1 Overview

Language family:	Afro-Asiatic (Cushitic)
Countries:	Somalia, Somaliland, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya
Number of speakers:	16 million
Agreement features:	gender, number, person
Attested word orders:	SV, VS
Coordination types:	and, or

(This description is based on data entered by four native speakers of Somali. There were minor variations in the data regarding imperfective vs. perfective aspect and the use of the pronouns that mark agreement. The patterns, however, were almost identical among all four speakers with the exception of coordination with "or" where three speakers chose a form that doesn't mark agreement at all. The fourth speaker marked agreement as described below.)

2 Patterns for gender

2.1 Coordination with "and"

2.1.1 SV order

Pattern: In all cases, a plural verb form is used that doesn't mark gender.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
fem	—	—
masc	—	—

Examples:

- (1) a. Ninka iyo naagtu waa ay ordaan.
man and woman they run.3PL
'The man and the woman run.'
- b. Naagta iyo ninku waa ay ordaan.
woman and man they run.3PL
'The woman and the man run.'

2.2 Coordination with "or"

2.2.1 SV order

Pattern: Both feminine and masculine agreement is possible. For some speakers a default form is chosen with "or".

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
fem	fem/def	fem/masc/def
masc	fem/masc/def	masc/def

Examples:

(2) *Pattern with agreement*

- a. ninku ama naagata waa uu ordaa / waa ay orodaa.
man or woman he run.3SG.MASC / she run.3SG.FEM
'The man or the woman run.'
- b. Naagata ama ninku waa ay orodaa / waa uu ordaa.
woman or man she run.3SG.FEM / he run.3SG.MASC
'The woman or the man run.'

(3) *Pattern without agreement*

- a. Ninka ama naagta ayaa orda.
man or woman DEF run.DEF
'The man or the woman run.'
- b. Naagta ama ninka ayaa orda.
woman or man DEF run.DEF
'The woman or the man run.'

3 Patterns for number

3.1 Coordination with “and”

3.1.1 SV order

Pattern: There is plural agreement in all cases.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
	sg	pl
sg	pl	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

- (4) Wiilka iyo ninku waa ay ordaan.
boy.SG and man.SG they run.3PL
'The boy and the man run.'
- (5) a. Wiilasha iyo ninku waa ay ordaan.
boy.PL and man.SG they run.3PL
'The boys and the man run.'
- b. Wiilka iyo nimanku waa ay ordaan.
boy.SG and man.PL they run.3PL
'The boy and the men run.'

3.2 Coordination with “or”

3.2.1 SV order

Pattern: With two singular conjuncts, both singular and plural agreement is possible. For some speakers, a default form is chosen with “or”.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
	sg	pl
sg	pl/sg/def	../def
pl	pl/def	pl/def

Examples:

(6) *Pattern with agreement*

- a. Wiilka ama ninku waa ay ordaan / waa uu ordayaa.
boy.SG or man.SG they run.3PL / he run.PROG.3SG
'The boy or the man run.'

- b. Wiilasha ama ninku waa ay ordaan
boy.PL or man.SG they run.3PL
'The boys or the man run.'

(7) *Pattern without agreement*

- a. Wiilka ama ninka ayaa orda.
boy.SG or man.SG DEF run.DEF
'The boy or the man run.'
- b. Wiilasha ama ninka ayaa orda.
boy.PL or man.SG DEF run.DEF
'The boys or the man run.'
- c. Wiilka ama nimanka ayaa orda.
boy.SG or man.PL DEF run.DEF
'The boy or the men run.'

4 Patterns for person

4.1 Coordination with "and"

4.1.1 SV order

Pattern: Mismatching person seems to be resolved following the hierarchy $1 > 2 > 3$. (Number is resolved to plural.) In combinations of 1st and 2nd person, an inclusive verb form is possible.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl.incl/excl	1pl.excl
2	1pl.incl/excl		
3	1pl.excl		

Examples:

- (8) a. Adiga iyo annigu waa aan orodnaa / waa aynu orodnaa.
you and I we.EXCL run.1PL / we.INCL run.1PL
'You and I run.'
- b. Anniga iyo adigu waa aan orodnaa / waa aynu orodnaa.
I and you we.EXCL run.1PL / we.INCL run.1PL
'I and you run.'
- (9) a. Annaga iyo iyagu waa aan orodnaa.
we and they we.EXCL run.1PL
'We and they run.'
- b. Iyaga iyo annagu waa aan orodnaa.
they and we we.EXCL run.1PL
'They and we run.'

4.2 Coordination with "or"

4.2.1 SV order

Pattern: In combinations of 1st and 3rd person, both 1st person and 3rd person agreement is possible. For some speakers, a default form is chosen with "or".

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		../def	1pl.excl/3pl/def
2	../def		
3	1pl.excl/3pl/def		

Examples:

(10) *Patterns with agreement:*

- a. Annaga ama iyaga waa aan orodnaa / waa ay ordaan.
we or they we.EXCL run.1PL / they run.3PL
'We or they run.'
- b. Iyaga ama annaga waa aan orodnaa / waa ay ordaan.
they and we.EXCL run.1PL / they run.3PL
'They and we run.'

(11) *Patterns without agreement:*

- a. Adiga ama aniga ayaa orda.
you or I DEF run.DEF
'You or I run.'
- b. Aniga ama adiga ayaa orda.
I or you DEF run.DEF
'I or you run.'
- c. Annaga ama idinka ayaa orda.
we or they DEF run.DEF
'We or they run.'
- d. Iyaga ama annaga ayaa orda.
they or we DEF run.DEF
'They or we run.'